



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

SA-09-01



Langley Research Center Safety Alert

Date: 08/23/01

TO: Facility Safety Heads
Facility Coordinators

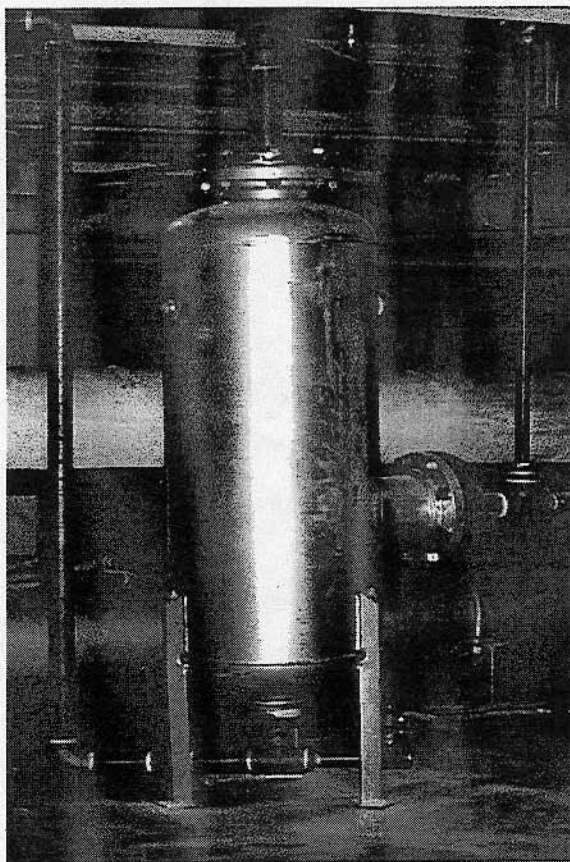
FROM: 429/Head, Office of Safety and Facility Assurance, OSMA

SUBJECT: Potential Hazard from Steam Condensate Flash Tanks

Facility Safety Heads and Facility Coordinators are encouraged to survey their facilities and look for the existence of flash tanks in steam condensate piping. These flash tanks collect steam condensate and route it to the pumps that send it back to the steam plant. Not all steam systems at LaRC use flash tanks in the condensate lines. A picture of an uninsulated steam condensate flash tank is shown to the right.

Flash tanks can be subject to overpressurization and rupture if their vent lines are blocked or if the vent lines are manifolded together to other steam relief lines. These situations could be hazardous to personnel, exposing them to water and steam at temperatures in excess of 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

If you have a steam condensate flash tank in your facility, please report its location to the Langley Pressure Systems Manager, Carlos S. Perez-Ramos at 47258 so that the appropriate investigation can be initiated on its operational safety.



Alan H. Phillips
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47233

103/L. M. Couch *me*

(This Safety Alert to be posted on Facility Bulletin Boards for a Minimum of 30 days.)